

**TOWN OF BEDFORD  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
January 23, 2019  
BEDFORD MEETING ROOM  
10 MEETINGHOUSE ROAD**

**ROLL CALL:** A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Rd. Present were Bill Duschatko (Chairman), and Councilors Phil Greazzo, Dave Gilbert, Kelleigh Murphy, Chris Bandazian, and Catherine Rombeau. Also present was Town Manager Rick Sawyer. Councilor Stevens was absent.

Chairman Duschatko opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Chairman Duschatko stated that Councilor Stevens had a baby on the 18<sup>th</sup> and was on maternity leave. He congratulated her and wished her well.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Councilor Rombeau.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.

Chairman Duschatko moved agenda item 4.b under New Business up as the next item.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **b. Appointment of Finance Director/Tax Collector**

Mr. Sawyer stated that Ms. Penny has served over a 15 year period as the Town Accountant, Assistant Finance Director and twice as interim Finance Director. She rose to the top after a formal selection process. A committee was put together to review all of the resumes and there were four top candidates brought forward. One pulled out hours before the interview, but through the interview process there were two top candidates. A second one on one interview with Tammy and it became clear that she was their top candidate. She has worked hard to build relationships in all of the departments and has been a go to person for everyone in the organization over the years. It's his pleasure to recommend that they confirm the nomination of Tammy Penny as Finance Director and Tax Collector.

Tammy Penny thanked everyone on the selection committee and to Rick. She was grateful for the opportunity to continuing serving the Town in her new role as Finance Director and Tax Collector.

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council confirm the appointment of Tammy Penny as Finance Director and Tax Collector for the Town of Bedford effective January 24, 2019. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed –6-0.**

### 3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

#### a. Second public hearing on the proposed 2019 budget

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy to open the public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

Mr. Sawyer stated that there was a \$93k over appropriation in the proposed recreation field maintenance bond that could be removed from the budget. When they worked through that during the November workshops there was an overestimation of what it would take to sell that bond this year. Tammy followed up with the Town's finance advisor and agree that there is too much money in there. There is \$143k listed in there and they are recommending that it be reduced down to \$50k. It would bring the tax rate increase to a 2% increase, which would represent \$36 to a \$400k home. If they don't make the change, it would have been a \$44 increase to a \$400k home. Councilor Murphy wanted to know if that was a motion he was looking for prior to the public hearing or after the public hearing closes. It was Mr. Sawyer's recommendation that they would make it as part of the motion to move the budget forward.

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy to close the public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council reduce line 10152100-53215 Bond Issuance Cost by \$93,000 and move the 2019 budget as presented forward to the Budgetary Town Meeting scheduled for March 13, 2019 in the following amounts:**

General Fund	28,871,028
Special Revenue Funds	31,400
Recreation Day Camp	78,517
Bedford Comm. TV	469,131
Sewer Fund	1,764,183
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$31,214,259</b>

**Seconded by Councilor Rombeau. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

#### b. Public hearing on proposed Parks and Recreation Improvement Bond

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy to open the public hearing for the Parks and Recreation Improvements Bond. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

Lori Radke, 50 McAfee Farm Road, didn't think the community was involved in some of the decisions. She attended the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting and a lot of people didn't understand where the money was going, what it was going to be spent on, and some of the fields listed didn't really need to be fixed. She questioned the \$3.9m.

She didn't think there was a need to put lighting on the Earl Legacy tennis court, paving the parking lot and trails in the Bedford Common, and the pavilion at Benedictine Park. She wished they could have had more community involvement. She gave the high school as an example of how it was done and the involvement of the community. If they want a big bond like this to pass, they need to get more community involvement. She also thought that money should be put in the bond for the Stevens-Buswell School. She thought it was time for the Council and the Town to do something with the building. They should put a little bit of money in the bond as a commitment from the Town

Councilor Murphy stated that she was going to vote against the bond, because she felt that it had been pushed through too fast. She was under the impression that all of the players that came to the table, all of the sports leagues and the groups had been fully apprised of the background material associated with the improvements and the bond. She thought that the public had adequate opportunity to come and speak to it. It's been on the agenda a number of times, it's been noticed for a meeting, there have been a number of opportunities for people to come speak. She appreciates that the public has the faith in the Council that it does and that they put their trust in them to make these important decisions on behalf of the Town. She wished that members of the public would show up to these meetings more often and speak up. For her, it was always put the money into the parks if there is a corresponding mechanism to raise money for future improvements and maintenance. Three years ago at the Council retreat and again two years ago, she mentioned the need for some sort of league fee system. A pay to play system that raised money to put back into the fields, because otherwise they could put a \$3.9m bond on the ballot, but they would be right back in this situation again in 7-10 years where the fields would be back in disrepair and they would not have clear cut objectives on who was taking care of what and whose responsibility field maintenance cost was. She was not willing to put the Town or the taxpayers into that position. She also didn't think that she should be binding a future Council. She is not running for re-election, she is stepping down after her term ends in March. She didn't feel right binding a Council with a \$3.9m bond and the associated maintenance cost going forward with that. After much thought and reflection and speaking to constituents and speaking to the leagues, they all want to slow it down and make sure that they really vet any kind of plan they are putting forward. She stated that depending on which league you are talking to, they will tell you that they didn't think improvements A through G are necessary and other leagues will tell you that they didn't think improvements H through Z are necessary. She thought they needed to take time and vet it with the public and the leagues. She thought everyone needed to be on the same page for it to be successful and she thought there needed to be a corresponding funding mechanism that supports ongoing field maintenance going forward. Because of those reasons, she is not going to support the bond, which is a huge shift from where she was before, but she put a lot of thought into it and just thinks they need to slow it down and do it right.

Ms. Radke thought if they move forward and put that much money into it, they need to have enough staff to drive it. The Town lost a Parks & Rec director many years ago and it was the Council's decision not to rehire one to try and save money and now they have a big mess because it wasn't taken care of.

Regarding the Stevens Buswell School, Councilor Murphy didn't think it was a good idea to throw money at projects when they haven't vetted them completely and there is no long range plan in place. Ms. Radke stated that she thought they should put money in the bond to do that. Find out exactly how much it's going to cost to fix the building and how much it's going to cost to operate it. She thought the Town should take it over and should be part of Recreation. The Library is bursting at the seams for areas to do things and that building has been sitting there for nine years. She didn't think that plowing it down was the solution after so many people put their blood, sweat and tears into that building; it's just not fair. She was hoping that future Councils make that a priority.

**MOTION by Councilor Bandazian to close the public hearing.  
Seconded by Councilor Murphy. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

Councilor Bandazian wanted to know what would happen to Sportsman Field if they don't do anything. Mr. Sawyer stated that Sportsman was the highest on the list that needed the most repair. They wanted to get to that first and get it back on line as soon as possible with the new synthetic turf so that it would help them do all of the other fields. He continues to strongly recommend that they move forward with their plan. It went to the MOLD committee twice, Parks & Recreation Commission at least once, maybe twice, and it was on a Council agenda. There has been a lot of work to try and bring it forward as a good plan for the community. They hired experts to come in and advise them as to the safety of play on the fields and came up with these recommendations. If nothing else he would love the Council to find a way to move Sportsman forward and get that built in 2019.

Councilor Gilbert stated that they've vetted it through MOLD at least twice and they were always in favor of it. The only time anybody from the leagues started having issues was when they started talking to them after that about possibly having user fees. They went through the Parks & Recreation Commission twice, they've been to the Council a couple of times, and it's online. He's concerned that people say they don't know what it is, because they've talked about, they've shown it, it's out there, and he agreed that they need people to get more engaged. He thought they have to do something, so that's why he would go forward with it. Sportsman is in bad disrepair and they need to something now, the little league fields aren't far behind, and there are safety issues at the Earl Legacy fields. As they talked about at the last Parks & Recreation meeting, they aren't going to have any user fees now. They are going to talk with MOLD, figure out what they are going to do going forward, define who pays for what, who does what as far as maintenance. It's going to take time, but getting started is the hardest thing to do. If they let it sit another year, it's going to be even worse and Sportsman is at disrepair enough that they have to take the light poles down. Mr. Sawyer stated that that has been mentioned several times. They have been working closely with the SAU on trying to bid together the Sportsman field turf with the high school turf replacement. The two projects are working together to try and save the most dollars for the taxpayer. The question is can they come up with \$1m for Sportsman without bonding. They could do it through taxes, through additional fund balance reduction. Chairman Duschatko wanted to know if there was any information on the RFP.

Jeff Foote, Public Works Director, stated that they've been coordinating with the school for the last several weeks. The School is letting out an RFP for about \$500k. The one for Sportsman is about \$1m. They met with the School today with the Finance Director and the Facilities Coordinator and the plan is to have the bids ready to let February 21<sup>st</sup> and have the bid opening on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The funding between the two organizations is different. They are combining the bids and are very close to having a package put together. Mr. Sawyer stated that if they weren't moving forward with the full bond, the budget is recommending Recreation Impact Fees at \$103k. They would probably have about \$150k in there. The last time he looked there was about \$146k. They could raise \$850k by taxes or fund balance. Chairman Duschatko mentioned that they would have another \$50 from not having bond sale costs. Mr. Sawyer stated that they could further reduce the budget or keep that in the budget. Chairman Duschatko stated that there is a small savings from the Eversource LED rebates. Mr. Foote stated that they haven't received word back from Eversource. Mr. Sawyer explained that it would be a rebate, so they would have to appropriate the money to be able to spend it and then get a rebate. There is also \$70k in the budget for the debt service for that bond in 2019 that they wouldn't have to spend, so between the \$50 and the \$70. Councilor Murphy stated \$120k plus \$130k, so they would be \$250k in it already. Mr. Sawyer stated that it's \$103k in Recreation Impact Fees, \$50k in selling the bond and \$70k in first year interest in the budget. Councilor Murphy stated that's \$223k and wanted to know if they anticipated any other 2018 budget surpluses that may be redirected towards Sportsman. Mr. Sawyer responded no, they are done with 2018. They've moved \$348k to purchase two dump trucks. He would not anticipate there being any significant funds remaining plus they are proposing to use \$1m of fund balance to offset the tax rate in 2019. Councilor Murphy stated that the difference if the 25% contingency plays out, is \$779,437.50 and wanted to know what that translated to on cents on a tax dollar. If they were to just pay for Sportsman and put it into the budget for 2019. Mr. Sawyer stated that it would be about \$0.20. Councilor Murphy stated that for a \$400k home, it would be an additional \$79.02 to the taxpayer. She wanted to know if Mr. Sawyer wasn't recommending that they touch fund balance. Mr. Sawyer stated that he hasn't done any additional analysis on fund balance beyond the \$1m that they proposed to take out. The fund balance policy says 8-17% and once you get to 17% then they start making changes, so they would be going somewhat against their policy.

Councilor Rombeau was concerned that there were two competing concerns about pushing this forward. There is the concern about if the public had been involved or aware enough, are there pieces of this that don't need to go forward and are they not in a position to tie it with a user fee in a way that feels sustainable. She felt that they were separate pieces. They've discussed how user fees could be a great utility as far as offsetting some costs. She didn't see how putting it forward to the voters to give them the option on this bond precludes moving forward with a user fee plan. They should continue to work on that in the coming months, but she's worried that if they don't move it forward and give the voters the option on it, part of the reason they are where they are is because it's been pushed down the road. They thought they had a lot of projects coming up that Town and the Council are going to have to consider in the next couple of years and try and put more of those altogether she thought would be more difficult.

She's worried about the pennywise pound foolish that if we keep pushing this down the road then they might be making that mistake. In terms of transparency, she felt at least with the bond they are bringing it to the voters. They are not folding it into the budget in a different way. She thought it gives voters more of an opportunity to dig into it and make a decision. She understands the concern with the user fee not being where they want it to be potentially, but it doesn't address that this work needs to be done.

Councilor Bandazian was concerned that it would be a hollow exercise to put a bond on the ballot without unanimous and vigorous support of the Council. He didn't think it would be a constructive exercise this cycle and also not willing to do invasion of unassigned fund balance or back of an envelope calculation at this point to do one project. He thought they had many other priorities. He understands this priority is a very important one, but it's not his highest. That would be safety substation followed by site acquisition and some design work. He recognizes that this has to happen in a phased manner and it's too much money to put on the taxpayer all at once in one budget. He's all for letting the public have its say, but doesn't hear much unanimity on whether \$3.9m is the right number or \$1m is the right number. He's very conflicted about putting something on the ballot that may be a setback for many years. The safety sub complex got 57% of the vote in a year when it competed with a \$30m road bond and they haven't put that back on the ballot and that's the fate of bonds that fail. He's concerned they are being a little hasty about getting this out there. He's willing to let the public have its say, but at a certain point he thought it wasn't constructive to do so. He's not sure how much time they would be able to critical analyze what could be done and what halfway measures could be done with Sportsman. He thought the most likely thing that would happen if they do nothing is to chainsaw down woodpecker riddled light posts.

Mr. Sawyer stated that they could reallocate Capital funds as well. They would be stealing from projects they have been saving for to pay for it, but that's in the Council's purview.

Councilor Murphy understands that her shift has been a drastic one on this. She's done a lot of listening to the heads of the leagues and the people in Town. She's taken a ton of phone calls on this issue and people have very strong opinions one way or another and she is not one to push through a measure without considerably more consensus than she's seeing and more long range planning.

Councilor Rombeau wanted to know how they balance it against all of the other projects they know are coming down the pike and trying to space them out potentially. It's not that she's not open to approach this differently, but she's concerned how they get done the things that need to get done now. There are projects within the bond that need to be tackled.

Councilor Gilbert's position was that they should trust the Public Works Department and Director. He did a very good job of coming up with what needs to be done to each field and the public has had ample time to weigh in on it. The MOLD leagues that are involved have been involved in this for months. He didn't hear any negative comments

from them except about user fees. They have no negative comments about the plan itself and the two of them are separate issues. Councilor Murphy stated that she's had a different experience. She's had people in leagues call into question improvements in fields that don't directly impact them and whether or not those improvements are necessary. Councilor Gilbert thought it was always going to be that way, because each league wants something for themselves and they don't pay attention to another league and another field that they don't use. Councilor Rombeau thought people have different impressions on what's being used and how it's being used and where more use might be appropriate or not. Councilor Murphy thought if it is a good idea today, it's a good idea a year from now and they shouldn't be slapping things on a ballot without necessary public feedback and without a corresponding plan for long term maintenance just because it seems like a good time to get something through on a bond measure. Councilor Rombeau stated that there is a plan, but there are disagreements about if everything in the plan should be in the plan. Councilor Gilbert didn't think the disagreement was about the maintenance going forward, it's about how to pay for it. The Town maintains those fields in a certain manner right now. Some of the leagues do some of the things also. That won't change. Councilor Murphy hoped that it does change, because representatives from the leagues get up at the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting and speak about how they all feel that the maintenance that's been done on those fields is completely inadequate by Parks and Rec and they want to see substantially more investment from the Town and that requires a plan and a corresponding long term funding mechanism. Councilor Gilbert stated that they still have to do the maintenance whether the Town does it or the leagues do it. It's still going to be there. It's not going to change. There isn't a big expense or item they have to do other than what they are doing now, but they have to figure out who is doing what. Mr. Foote stated that the Town does maintain the fields now and they spend \$330k. They went through an analysis and to keep the fields up to snuff and the analysis included a 10-year plan, and they included putting \$75k a year towards a new turf field, so in 10 years they have money to replace it. They went through a bunch of other iterations and the delta between what the taxpayers are paying today and what the taxpayer would be paying for additional field maintenance to do these things that they included in the analysis was \$70k a year. They are funding \$320k a year and they are proposing of this moves forward it would be \$70k more a year than what they are doing. Mr. Sawyer added that it would be in 2020.

Mr. Foote stated that he had been to the MOLD meetings a couple of times and he's been to the Parks & Recreation Commission a couple of times, and he's been to the Council on this two or three times. He's not advocating for or not, but he can tell them that when he left the second MOLD meeting, everybody was in the room and he was very clear that he did not want to move forward with this unless he had their absolute and complete support and everybody was in agreement to that. He agrees with what everybody is saying about the concern that now they have to pay for the maintenance of it and it is something that the Council can address, but he thought the Council had a year to address it, because in 2019, they are proposing Sportsman Field and some improvements to Selvoski, which are in the same location. They have a plan and it's a solid plan and he haven't heard one person in the community disagree with the

improvements to Selvoski field or Sportsman field. They have a year to come up with a mechanism to pay for them, but at some point very soon the poles are going to need to be removed, so the field will have no lighting and money will need to be spent to improve that field. Chairman Duschatko wanted to know if they replaced the poles at Sportsman Field if it would affect future reconstruction of the field. Mr. Foote stated that he was looking through the design for the field and there is sub drainage and conduit for the lights, and fencing, so he didn't think they could go in install the lights now because the footing would be too low, because the plan is to bring the field up about 1½ feet. There would be a grade issue as far as constructability of putting lights in and doing nothing else. There are a host of concerns they have piece mailing it like they do with so many other things. That's why they let big projects out that are millions of dollars and that's why they are combining with the school so they can get the best bang for their buck. He apologized if they thought he didn't do enough public outreach. Councilor Bandazian stated that it wasn't his role to do that. Chairman Duschatko thought they did a good job of public outreach. It's been publicized for a number of months and has been discussed for at least three months of Council meetings, there is information on the website that's been there for almost two months. All somebody has to do is look at it and comment on it. They don't get a lot of feedback from the populous. Mr. Foote stated that he didn't hear any negativity at all until the discussion came up on how starting to charge people for user fees. Chairman Duschatko thought if they were to put the whole amount on the ballot for bonding, which they probably should do, it's consistent. They don't have to spend all of that money and thought their thinking today strategically is going to a bond anticipation note type of thing, which is more of a construction loan process where they go through and do the critical field, which happens to be Sportsman. They could get that done under one issue of a note and that gives them about a year and then they can resolve the going forward items on the maintenance plan to see if they do the rest of the stuff. Mr. Foote stated it would be very similar to what they've done with the roads. They didn't have all of the roads designed perfectly, they passed the bond and then they picked a road they all agreed should be improved and they told the Council what they were doing such as improving the drainage, reclaim, overlay or full construction. It's a very similar process. Chairman Duschatko stated that even if they put in user fees they've acknowledged the fact that the first half of the season has gone by; it's too late to put those in and through the Parks & Recreation meeting and the fact that it's been delayed to the next meeting to discuss it, they aren't going to see any user fees this year anyways. The first year is maintenance free. They have to do something to justify it going ahead for anything greater than that. If they end up borrowing a million dollars to do Sportsman and have to pay that back over three or four years instead of 10, he didn't think it would make a big difference. It's either that or pay it all this year.

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council table the bond as presented. Seconded by Councilor Greazzo.**

Councilor Bandazian stated that that would affect the budget that they just moved. Mr. Sawyer agreed that it would. Technically they've over appropriated in the budget if they don't move forward with this. He mentioned opening the public hearing on the user fees.

From the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, he's heard from two Councilors was to delay the user fees, but they could open the public hearing and see if that weighs in on their decision making before their final motion. Councilor Murphy stated that as a point of order, having voted on the prevailing side of the motion, she could move to reconsider the vote on the budget, so they could correct any math errors at that time.

Councilor Bandazian thought it made sense to open the public hearing on user fees. To him, revenue production goes hand and hand with a bond, so if there is public sentiment against it, then he thought that would be a strong influence for him. If public sentiment is behind user fees, he is more optimistic about how it might do on the ballot this year.

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy to withdraw her motion. Councilor Greazzo withdrew his second.**

The Council agreed to open the user fee public hearing.

**d. Public hearing on proposed amendment to Bedford Parks and Recreation Field/Facility Use Policy for the addition of user fees**

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy to open the public hearing on the propose amendment to Bedford Parks & Recreation's Field and Facility Use Policy for the addition of user fees. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

**MOTION by Councilor Bandazian to close the public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Murphy. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

Councilor Greazzo thought it was all unraveling in front of them and he thought if they don't have the user fees, they don't have the bond. Councilor Rombeau wanted to know what they were going to put on the ballot or how they were going to tie the user fee to it in terms of presenting it to the voter. Councilor Murphy stated that ideally, she didn't think they've determined the final user fee structure, because the sentiment at the most recent Parks & Recreation Commission meeting was that they are not necessarily opposed to a user fee. They would like a year to go through all of their season and determine how this impacts their individual operating budgets; they aren't sure what dollar figure is most appropriate; make sure they charge out-of-town leagues much more than they are charging in-town leagues; you are undercharging for turf. Councilor Rombeau stated that all of those things could be true, but it doesn't undermine that they could still move forward with the bond article and move forward and continue to reach that point that they come to consensus on what those fees look like. Councilor Murphy respectively disagreed with Councilor Rombeau's point and she's not comfortable moving it forward without a corresponding funding mechanism. Councilor Rombeau wanted to know if they are trying to pin it to a specific structure that they are going pin with at the time they offer the bond that they aren't comfortable doing at this point. Councilor Murphy stated that they talked about a number of references to funding in the actual ballot measure: that there would be a \$20 per hour user fee instituted for the first

year, that the Council would institute a user fee system to correspond with this, but stay vague on the amount, and that the Town Council is considering implementing a user fee. Public buy-in is a big part for her and without a clear cut consensus from the players at the table, she is not comfortable pushing language forward just because she feels that she's under an incredible amount of pressure to push language forward. Councilor Rombeau agreed that language that would be lock tying them to any particular number wouldn't be appropriate. Her impression from the hearings that they've had was that there was a lot of consensus that user fees could be appropriate. It wasn't so much resistance to any sort of user fee to the extent they would be able to reference that in what's going on the ballot and not tying into a specific number at this point. She thought it was useful in terms of communicating that the Town Council was committed to recouping some of those costs for maintenance going forward. She didn't disagree with the basic premise that they are tied together. Councilor Bandazian stated that if he is a disinterested voter who doesn't have children or grandchildren that play on the fields, the fact that the people who use it have some skin in the game matters to him in terms of his support. It would make a difference to a lot of people if they saw that the people who were going to use the facilities care about taking care of it. Councilor Rombeau agreed and would like to see some language, but it sounds like they don't agree what level of detail and language to be included about user fees in the ballot question would be appropriate.

Councilor Bandazian he thought that at the last public hearing on user fees, there was a great level of comfort in what was proposed. If there isn't a consensus among those groups about what's appropriate he thought more work had to be done. Councilor Gilbert stated that they discussed that at the last Parks & Recreation Commission meeting and they are going to keep looking at it and refine the plan, but that doesn't have anything to do with the bond. Maybe they could put something in that says they are looking into it and coming up with a plan, but there is no dollar amount. Councilor Rombeau thought that's what Councilor Murphy wasn't comfortable with. It's too vague. Councilor Gilbert stated that they aren't there yet. The people that use the fields most have concerns and there are all kinds of different issues that were brought and they still need to research all of that. Councilor Murphy stated that is why she was going to renew her motion to table. Councilor Gilbert stated that he considered the fields just like the roads. The roads were bad, but they did a good job bonding, getting them up to where they need to be and they are good. He would consider the ball fields the same way. They have to do that. As far as all the voters in Town, his opinion was that they need to put money into something to make sure it doesn't fail in the long run. Councilor Murphy stated that they need a plan for how they are not going to let this happen again. Councilor Gilbert thought it was pretty clear about what Mr. Foote said about how he maintains the fields and what they are going to do going forward

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council table this issue. Seconded by Councilor Greazzo.**

Chairman Duschatko stated that they would like to see some assurance, and they are going to have bind future Town Councils, they'll see assurance that they are going to

adopt and make it a requirement that they adopt a user fee policy. They don't know what the dollar amount is going to be, but least they can make it part of this that they are going to go ahead and going to adopt that policy, the dollar amount to be determined over the course of the next year with input from the concerned people.

Councilor Murphy stated that if the measure was worded to say that a user fee policy shall be adopted by the Town Council in the next year, she could support it, but she also thought it was dangerous, because the leagues and the public are all over the place on how this should play out. They are binding a future council to do something that they don't necessarily know that they all want before they've vetted it fully and taken in all of the information and that's where her lack of sleep and discomfort comes from. She is very weary of making decisions on behalf of a town that isn't on the same page on an issue. Chairman Duschatko didn't disagree from where she was coming from or her concerns, but thought they needed to do something. They are going to be stuck with some type of catastrophic repairs to continue to have lights on that particular field.

Councilor Murphy thought the comments she's heard deal primarily with the lighting situation on one particular field and then Mr. Foote said that he hadn't heard any objections to the work on Sportsman or Selvoski, but yet the plan is very comprehensive and it doesn't just address work at two fields. It's great that they haven't heard objection where two of them are concerned, but the number of different questions that have arisen and the concerns about a funding mechanism and all of these things play into a giant global question mark for her that says why are they rushing this whole thing to the ballot if maybe they are on the same page on a couple of the issues, but not on the comprehensive package, not on the corresponding funding mechanism. She wanted to know what the danger was in waiting a year and making sure that the thing gets vetted as a package. Councilor Gilbert stated that they haven't been rushing. They've been talking about this for at least six months. They've been working on it, they've been telling the world about it in Town. Everyone knows what's going on, everyone has seen this or should have seen it, and it's a very comprehensive plan. Councilor Murphy stated that she asked Councilor Gilbert specifically if everybody was on board with everything, everybody on MOLD, and had he talked to the players about potential user fee systems, etc. and that his response was yes, everybody is on the same page. She didn't think that seemed to be the way that his has played out, so she was in great shock to learn that everyone was not on the same page and then she felt embarrassed, because people clearly hadn't been given enough time to think it through and then she thought why is she trying so hard to sell something that people haven't even heard of yet or that there is so much misinformation surrounding.

Mike Therrien, 11 Gage Road and associated with Bedford Athletic Club, thanked Jeff Foote for doing all of the work and Councilor Gilbert and Councilor Murphy. He attended the August MOLD meeting where there were some heated discussions about the turf field. He had not seen anything about the most up to date version of the bond. He's got the August one. He spent an hour looking on the Town website for it. Most people were in favor of the bond as a whole. He didn't think everyone was sold on every last bit of it, himself included. He believes it's something that they need to do. He wanted to know if

it doesn't pass, what they are going to do in the meantime until it does pass. They are going to continue to play on trashed fields that have been unmaintained for a decade with the potential for more injuries. They do need to move forward in some fashion, but there is no comprehensive plan to maintain it other than fertilizing, cutting grass, and making sure the irrigation works. He understands that there is a short staff. There are a lot of avenues that need to be looked at, but he doesn't know how they can make it all work in fell swoop without spending time and time to get it to work. He's not against the user fee, but he found out about it 24 hours before the meeting two weeks ago. MOLD was something that was put together around 15 years ago. They don't meet that often, maybe twice a year. He thought that needed to be built up into a quarterly or whatever to make these things happen. To help work with Jeff (Foote) and the Council to get these things to happen.

Ms. Radke stated that clearly Sportsman and Selvoski need to be fixed and wanted to know if there was a way they could put a bond forward for those two pieces, get that through, because she thought that might pass more than the \$3.9m. She's not convinced the bond will pass as is, because she didn't think the Town was buying into it. If it's a smaller amount and they put that on the ballot, then she would encourage the Council to start writing letters to the editor, get it out there in the paper, let people know how important it is that they pass the bond the get those fields fixed. If this doesn't pass, she doesn't know if there is a mechanism to fix Sportsman this year in the budget.

Shana Potvin, 233 Joppa Hill Road, agreed with Ms. Radke. If they could figure out how much to fix Sportsman and Selvoski, she thought that's what should happen. She's been looking for MOLD information and has found nothing, so she doesn't know where the information is on it online. If it's possible to take that out and fix what needs to be fixed so there isn't an emergency. She's been watching that field and it has been closed and she thought there was a plan to fix it, because it's bad. She thought as a community they need to address that, so she would see it as a priority to split that out and get that on the ballot as a bond or in the budget. She would love to see the \$70k that Mr. Foote talked about be put into the budget, so that the fields could be maintained. She added that when you go try to rent out the Bedford High School Theater or McKelvie cafeteria or whatever for an event, there is a user fee. It's right there on the website. A non-profit has a user fee versus a for-profit has a user fee, maybe that's how they need to make this look like for Town-sponsored athletics. She thought it would be more feasible to fund it if it was a smaller amount just for the emergency situation.

Scott Wiggin, 271 Back River Road, wanted to know if it was possible to put the bond on for \$1m and see the public's input on it. If it doesn't pass, at the Town Budgetary Meeting, they may bring forth additional funding at that time, but they have the lead way with the bond and then the ability to get some funding. They've found \$223k they can put towards it and it's a lot more palatable as far as putting money in the budget for the remainder rather than the full \$1m. Councilor Murphy stated that she wouldn't be opposed to that, but she would want to see language that the Council would adopt a corresponding funding mechanism through a user fee system. Mr. Wiggin thought they had two bites at the apple doing this way. Councilor Gilbert stated that if you look at the

Parks & Recreation plan, the amount that Jeff (Foote) talked about was \$1,002,438 and there is also a section in there for Selvoski for \$79k, so the total would be roughly \$1,082,000. If they take of the \$223k they are down to \$860k. Councilor Murphy thought it might not be a bad pilot program. If it were to go on as a pilot program and they said the Town Council shall implement a user fee system for those two fields, she would say the groups that use those two fields are going to get up and say that really isn't fair, because you are not charging the other groups in Town; you're penalizing them. The counter argument would be the Town just improved your fields and they have to make sure they can maintain them going forward. Mr. Sawyer stated that the input he's had seem to be split 50/50. There are people that would vote for it if there is a user fee, and there are others that would vote against if there was user fee. They feel it should be paid for by taxes. He's not sure they could ever get the consensus they are looking for from the public. Chairman Duschatko thought what Chief Wiggins proposed was something that he had talked to the Town Manager about. As a fall back to what happens if the bond is put on the warrant and fails, they still have to deal with a pending situation to deal with for Sportsman. The way to see if there is any consensus one way or the other is to put the bond issue on the ballot and see how the voters react. Councilor Murphy wanted to clarify if he was suggesting put the bond issue just for Sportsman on the ballot and Chairman Duschatko responded, no, put the whole thing on it, but he would go to the way they finance it. They only draw it down so they have enough money to do Sportsman and Selvoski, so they wouldn't have a huge debt impact if they couldn't resolve the problem of how they were going to go forward and maintain it. Councilor Murphy wanted to know how he would word the funding language.

Councilor Bandazian stated that it would be an authorization to bond up to \$3.9m. Councilor Murphy clarified that she wanted to know how they would word the corresponding user fee language or would they just not have it. Chairman Duschatko stated that he would go back to her language that they use 'shall'. Councilor Bandazian stated, 'that the Town Council shall adopt a user fee policy to be effective in 2020'. Mr. Sawyer wanted to know if that was to fully offset the cost of it and Councilor Murphy responded no, that was never the intention. It was never meant to offset the bond cost, it was meant to provide a funding stream for ongoing maintenance in the future. Councilor Rombeau thought if they include the language that Councilor Bandazian suggested that they shall develop and implement a user fee policy that gives a lot of room still for what that looks like. Councilor Gilbert stated that even with the data that they dealt with in the beginning for what teams used and times, etc. that needed to be refined. The total impact shouldn't be as much as they initially planned, but they need time to go through it and they need to go through it with all of the MOLD leagues. They have to get their consensus; he wouldn't do anything in a vacuum or unilaterally. Councilor Murphy wanted to know what happens if they don't get consensus on the user fee issue and Councilor Gilbert responded that then they have a discussion. Councilor Murphy stated that they would have 'shall' language that they are going to implement. Councilor Gilbert thought that by that time they shouldn't have 'shall' language, because they'll have time to work on what that language should be. Councilor Rombeau stated that 'shall develop and implement a policy' doesn't say what the policy looks like. Councilor Murphy thought they could implement a policy whereby they charged \$1 a

day. Councilor Gilbert thought that if they are always looking for consensus they would never put forward a budget every year. They have to get the best they can. Councilor Bandazian stated that he didn't hear much objection to \$20 as a minimum amount. His vote on a policy is going to include a minimum user fee of \$20 per hour. He's not going to represent to the public there's going to be a meaningful policy on a bond issue without attaching a meaningful dollar revenue amount and he's making that commitment. He's not intending to con anyone in the public into voting for something then charging a \$1. At the end of the day he's going to impose a fee that's a meaningful fee consensus or not.

Councilor Murphy stated that if there is greater consensus to move forward with a corresponding funding mechanism, she could withdraw her motion to table.

**MOTION to table withdrawn.**

Councilor Bandazian made a motion relative to the Parks and Recreation Improvements bond agenda item that was discussed earlier in a public hearing.

**MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council approve the warrant article as presented relative to seeking authorization to bond up to three million nine hundred thousand (\$3,900,000) for the purposes of Parks and Recreation Improvements and place such warrant article on the ballot to be voted on by the public on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 providing further that the Town Council shall develop and adopt a user fee policy that shall be in effect on January 1, 2020.**

Councilor Murphy wanted to know if he wanted to make mention of prioritizing Sportsman and Selvoski or leave it open. Councilor Bandazian stated that not being as close to those particular constituencies, he recognizes that those are the most sensible ones to go address after a public hearing, but he would be concerned about alienating or not getting the buy-in of other constituencies with other priorities. Chairman Duschatko thought that construction schedule wise, it made sense to start with Sportsman. Councilor Bandazian agreed that it does and he would accept that as an amendment in conjunction with the school. Amended motion:

**MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council approve the warrant article as presented relative to seeking authorization to bond up to three million nine hundred thousand (\$3,900,000) for the purposes of Parks and Recreation Improvements and place such warrant article on the ballot to be voted on by the public on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 providing further that the Town Council shall develop and adopt a user fee policy that shall be in effect on January 1, 2020 and further providing that Sportsman Field would be the priority in conjunction with the School. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert.**

Mr. Sawyer wanted to clarify the motion and wanted to know if they were suggesting that language is inserted into the warrant article language or just a stand-alone motion that is separate from what's going on the ballot. Councilor Murphy stated that it would have to go into the ballot language. Mr. Sawyer wanted to know if it was going into the explanation and Councilor Murphy responded no. She couldn't support it if it was just in the explanation. She would need it to be in the actual language. Councilor Bandazian thought it was an issue for underwriting. Mr. Sawyer stated that it was possible and thought he would need to hear him read that language. He wanted to know if the bond fails they wouldn't have to perform a user fee for sure, but he thought it was just strange language to be in a budgetary type item the way it was worded. If they just had simpler language that said something along the lines that the Council 'may' implement. If they want 'shall' they could do it, he just didn't know what DRA would say about it. Chairman Duschatko thought they should take their chance. Mr. Sawyer stated that it binds the Council to do something, what if they don't do it. He didn't know what bond counsel would say about it, but if it's the will of the Council they will make that effort. Councilor Murphy wanted to know if the Charter allows them to bind a future Council to take a certain action, because he thought it speaks to that. She was concerned that the Charter prohibits what they are trying to do here. Chairman Duschatko thought the Town Meeting would override it as a final decision maker if they put that language in there. Mr. Sawyer stated that if it said something to be in place during the life of the debt service for this bond, he might be happier with that. A future Council could just change the user fee policy and reduce the amount that they might put in place. It just opens up some questions that he thought bond counsel would need answers to. Chairman Duschatko stated that the money wasn't being used for the bond. Mr. Sawyer pointed out that they just made a motion that said it would tie it to it. Councilor Murphy stated that they are tying the two together. Councilor Rombeau pointed it out that it isn't saying that it's paying for the bond. They are saying the Council shall develop and implement a user fee policy effective January 1, 2020. Councilor Murphy added that it's not to say they can't amend on January 2, 2020. Councilor Gilbert stated that the user fee policy might be zero. Chairman Duschatko agreed that it could be. Councilor Bandazian stated that he would not support that. He wanted to know when the ballots need to go to press. Mr. Sawyer stated that legally they have to February 25<sup>th</sup>, but the Town Clerk's office would be very upset if that is the schedule they give them. Councilor Bandazian stated that they would have enough opinion to run it by counsel and Mr. Sawyer stated yes. Councilor Gilbert suggested that they run it by counsel, see where it's appropriate to put it. Mr. Sawyer suggested that they finish the motion and see if it passes or not. They would run it by counsel at that point and if they have concerns he would bring them back to the Council for their next meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup> or ask the Chair to schedule a special meeting. Chairman Duschatko thought they may have the answer, they might have the language.

Councilor Murphy stated point of clarification, the motion as it stands has the language in the actual ballot measure, not the explanation and the response was that was correct.

**Vote taken – Motion Passed – 5-1 (Greazzo-nay).**

**c. Public hearing on proposed Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Warrant Article**

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy to open the public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy to close the public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

Mr. Sawyer explained that it's a \$60k rebate program requires them to put it on the ballot and have a vote to receive the rebate. The \$60k is in the 2019 budget that they've moved to Town Meeting and would be a full reimbursement by the State if they were to adopt this warrant article.

**MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council approve the warrant article as presented seeking authorization to issue a bond or note up to sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) for the purposes of defraying the cost of planning for public facilities for development and implementation of an Asset Management Plan for the Town of Bedford's wastewater collection and conveyance system and the stormwater collection and conveyance system and place such warrant article on the ballot to be voted on by the public on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. Seconded by Councilor Rombeau. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

**e. Public hearing for the acceptance of a Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Grant**

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy to open the public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

Fire Captain Ben Selleck and Police Sgt. Mike Monahan came forward to present. Capt. Selleck stated that they are asking the Council accept the \$350k grant that the Town had been awarded to put on a 2-year active threat project including training exercise, planning, evaluation, and future planning. Councilor Murphy mentioned that the money wasn't attached to any expenditure by the Town. It's just \$350k that they get to use for training that they wouldn't otherwise have. Capt. Selleck explained that the Town puts the money up front and then it's 100% reimbursed. There's no match to it. Councilor Murphy stated that it has zero tax impact on the taxpayers. Councilor Greazzo wanted to clarify that it's for joint training for the Fire Department and Police Department. Capt. Selleck responded yes, as well as Communications. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know how often they work jointly together throughout the year. Capt. Selleck stated that they have started to do some active threat training already over the past two years, but it goes well beyond that into other incidents that they deal with on a daily basis. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if this was specifically for threats. Capt. Selleck responded that it's for active threats, which could be active

shooter, other incidents involving a good cohesion. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if there was a reason they don't do that already. Capt. Selleck stated that this level of training, specifically the management training, and the tuition alone is \$1,200 per person. Councilor Greazzo clarified that he meant coordinate between their departments and Capt. Selleck stated that they coordinate on a regular basis. There are multiple classes that they are putting on as part of this and their hope is to eventually get enough classes here and enough of their personnel trained so that they could go through training, training classes for long-term viability to continue it as they get new employees and changeover. Chairman Duschatko wanted to know if the bulk of the funds go for overtime and fill back. Capt. Selleck responded yes, the majority of it is overtime and back fill expenses, which on a regular budget they would not be able to put this much training and planning into their regular annual budget. Councilor Murphy wanted to know who worked on the grant application. Capt. Selleck stated that he and Sgt. Monahan and then they had to lean back to administrators quite a bit as well. They've had a very good relationship with Homeland Security in NH and they've been extremely helpful guiding them through the process. Chairman Duschatko wanted to know if this involved any other towns and Capt. Selleck responded yes, Manchester, Goffstown, Londonderry, New Boston, Derry, Merrimack, Amherst, Hooksett, Bow, Concord, Hillsborough County Sheriff, New Boston Police, and other law enforcement agencies. Because there is a community approach to this, they are also utilizing community events, because they are targeting high hazard areas and working with different management companies for office buildings as well as religious.

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council accept the 2019 & 2020 Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Grant in the amount of \$350,000 and authorize the Town Manager to execute any necessary documentation. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy to close the public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Rombeau. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **a. Discussion and setting of salary for Town Clerk position**

Mr. Sawyer stated that every three years when the position comes up for election, the Town Council sets the salary range and the benefit package for the position and lists in the Town Meeting handout what the expected salary would be for the next year of the budget. This position currently receives health, dental, life, worker's comp, short-term and long-term disability, but does not earn sick, vacation, holiday or longevity pay. Based on the statues and the Charter, the Council makes the recommendation and it's the Budgetary Town Meeting that votes to approve and can modify the Town Clerk's salary and benefit package. The way the Town has done it is that information is in the Town Meeting handout. This includes a recommended slight increase to the range based on the last two years of CPI. He has had conversations where they felt that a

new person to the position, there would be very few people that would come in with any experience as a Town Clerk, you have to be a resident to run, it would be anticipated that the position would start at the bottom of the range. This is a one-year position, so they would revisit it next year. Councilor Murphy wanted to know what the previous range was. Mr. Sawyer stated that it was \$49k - \$65k. Councilor Gilbert wanted to know when that range was set. Mr. Sawyer stated 2017. The recommendation was to amend it for the CPI of 2.6% that occurred in 2017 and the 2018 CPI is not out yet, but appears to be 3%, so the recommended increases is accounting for that. Councilor Murphy stated that she was comfortable with \$49k - \$65k for an unknown elected position of someone with most likely absolutely no experience whatsoever. Mr. Sawyer stated that the salary range in 2008 was \$51k - \$66k.

**MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council set the Town Clerk salary range at \$51,000-\$68,000 with the newly elected clerk to start at the bottom of the range and receive the same benefit package as provided to the current Clerk. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 5-1 (Murphy-nay).**

b. **Other New Business – None.**

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

a. **Old Business – None.**

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. **Budget Workshop – December 12, 2018**

**MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the December 12, 2018 Budget Workshop. Seconded by Councilor Murphy. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

b. **Public Session – January 9, 2019**

**MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the January 9, 2019 Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Murphy. Vote taken – Motion Passed –5-0-1 (Gilbert abstained as he was not present at that meeting).**

c. **Non-Public Session – January 9, 2019**

**MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the January 19, 2019 Non-Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Murphy. Vote taken – Motion Passed –5-0-1 (Gilbert abstained as he was not present at that meeting).**

## 7. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

1) The registration period for elected positions is Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> through 5PM February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Open Town Elected Positions:

- Two Town Council positions (3-year term)
- One Library Trustee (3-year term)
- One Trustee of the Trust Fund (3-year term)
- One Town Clerk (1-year term)

Open School District Positions:

- One School Board positions (3-year term)
- One School District Moderator (3-year term)
- One School District Clerk (3-year term)
- One School District Treasurer (3-year term)

2) February 5<sup>th</sup> – School System Deliberative Meeting, 7:00 PM, Bedford High School.

3) March 12<sup>th</sup> – Local Election Day, 7am – 7pm.

4) March 13<sup>th</sup> – Budgetary Town Meeting @ 7pm.

5) The Transfer Station stickers issued in 2018 will remain valid for 2019. The State has announced their new PFAS Drinking Water Standards for four compounds that are stated to be protective of the most sensitive populations over a lifetime as the following:

PFAS	Proposed MCL & AGQS
PFOA	38 ppt
PFOS	70 ppt
PFOA & PFOS (combined)	70 ppt
PFHxS	85 ppt
PFNA	23 ppt

The 38 ppt for PFOA will likely have an additional impact on those needing a long term water solution in the southeast portion of Bedford and potentially around our landfill. The State has announced that they intend to hold at least three hearings: one in Concord, one in Portsmouth at Pease, and one in Merrimack on March 4<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged residents that have been impacted to send in written testimony.

	NHDES	EPA	ATSOR	NI/DWQI
Health Effect Endpoint	Altered Liver Size/Function	Developmental bone effects and delayed growth	Developmental bone effects and behavior changes	Altered Liver Size/Function
Animal Serum Dose (ng/mL) <sup>a</sup>	4,351	38,000 (estimated)	8,290 (estimated)	4,351
Total Uncertainty Factor HUF x AUF x MF	100 10 x 3 x 3	300 10 x 3 x 10 <sup>b</sup>	300 10 x 3 x 10 <sup>b</sup>	300 10 x 3 x 10
Target Serum Dose (ng/mL)	43.5	126.7	27.6	14.5
Human Half-life (years)	2.7	2.3	3.8	2.3
Dosimetric Adjustment <sup>c</sup> Factor (L/kg/d)	1.20E <sup>-04</sup>	1.40E <sup>-04</sup>	1.09E <sup>-04</sup> See comment	1.40E <sup>-04</sup>
Reference Dose or MRL (ng/kg/d)	5.2	20.0	3.0	2.0
Relative Source Contribution <sup>d</sup>	40%	20%	100% See comment	20%
Water Ingestion Rate <sup>e</sup>	0.055 L/kg d	0.054 L/kg d	0.143-0.039 L/kg d	0.029 L/kg d
MCL/AGQS ppt (ng/L)	38	70	21-78	14

Councilor Duschatko wanted to know if they had current information on the wells in the Merrimack Valley Water District and what they are currently reporting. Mr. Sawyer stated that he hasn't looked at those wells in quite some time. The reason the hearing is going to be in Merrimack is because this could significantly impact the residents in Merrimack who are anticipating full treatment of their water system. The wells that are most contaminated have a plan to be treated, but the other wells do not. It's very likely that they've never exceeded a 38 number on their system when combined together.

- 6) Family Snowman Challenge – build a snowman in your own yard and submit a picture by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Be sure to challenge your friends and neighbors!
- 7) January 28<sup>th</sup> – “Breaking Down the Numbers – Risk Behavior Survey”, presented by the Bedford Police Department in partnership with BeBold, 7-8 PM, Bedford Library.
- 8) February 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday Concert Series, 2:30-4:00 PM, Bedford Library, “Matt Heaton – Children’s Sing-along”. RSVP through the Library.

Mr. Sawyer stated that he couldn't thank Lori enough for all her work she's done for the community and her support for the whole department management team at the Town Office and Town. He mentioned her bringing the electronic pole books to the election and her passion for the dog program. He wanted to thank her for all her service to the community.

## **8. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Councilor Bandazian thanked Lori. She was on the Town Council in May of 2004 that appointed him to fill out a vacancy until the next March Election and he will be eternally grateful. He mentioned that the EFJH is holding its annual Snow Ball on February 16<sup>th</sup> at Murphy's Carriage House. The cost is \$75/ticket. Tickets can be purchased at [theeducationalfarm.org](http://theeducationalfarm.org). Unfortunately the Legislature always seems to have a legion of people willing to advance the special interests in the State. Eversouce happens to be the largest taxpayer in the Town of Bedford. Senate Bill 57 aims to make utility property nontaxable over the course of a few years, so they would be losing 1.4% of their assessed value, so the rest of the residents would have to pick that up if that bill passes. He thought it was a big enough dollar amount that people ought to be very concerned about it.

Councilor Murphy stated that if you don't have a date for the Snow Ball, her entire table is full of single people, so she encouraged everyone to buy tickets and have a great time. She has had six amazing years on the Town Council and it has been such a huge part of her heart and soul and she's loved every minute of it. She's not running for re-election for personal reasons, but would encourage anyone to run for election and she's happy to answer any questions. Her home number is 488-2348. Please feel free to give her a call and she will sit down and talk to you. She thanked Lori for all of her service.

Chairman Duschatko thanked Lori who has been a great counsel to him. He's sorry to see Kelleigh go. She's been a great help. He also offered his encouragement for new people to come out and run for Council or for other positions. He would be happy to talk with anybody that is considering running for Council. His number is 472-5393.

**9. NON-PUBLIC – RSA 91-A:3 (if necessary)**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Rombeau. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

The public meeting ended at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford